A Bible Study Exercise in determining the Mission priorities of your Congregation

Ephesians 5: “*Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love”*

**Commentary**

If this church is part of the body of Christ then what are the strong/weak parts of this *body.* Invite the Kirk Session or Church group to examine the passage and then to determine which best sums up their church community. It is part of an exercise inviting groups from the congregation to express the ‘overall’ ethos/direction/priority which people perceive their church to be. Some church communities will attempt to avoid a definition (as defined in the bible passage) as this would show up any gaps or make them feel ‘less of’ a church. However the exercise is designed to identify there strengths and weeaknesses and help put them right.

**Ephesians 4:1-16**

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and

gentle; be patient, bearing with ne another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to one hope when you were called – one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it......it was he who gave

some to be apostles,

some to be prophets,

some to be evangelists,

and some to be pastors

and teachers,

to prepare God’s people for works of service, (disciples)

so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature....... From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its works.

**Questions**

**1/ Examine the passage from Ephesians and express any words/phrases/or themes that surprise you?**

**2/ Which parts of the passage do you feel are relevant for the Church of today?**

**3/ Look at the following definitions and answer the question:**

***What type of church/body are you?***

*Apostolic: who work and serve in the world*

*Prophetic: who give hope and remind us of God’s ways*

*Evangelistic: who pass on the ‘good news’ by word and deed*

*Pastoral: who care through His love*

*Teaching: who share the life of Jesus and the love of God*

*(forming) Disciples: who follow Jesus, preparing for service*

4/ Having identified one or two of the definitions for your Church, how would you set about enhancing these areas of Church life?

5/ With the definitions (gaps) left. Identify one and ‘brian-storm’ ideas that you may be able to put into practise